

Introducing Your New Cat To Other Pets



Before introducing your new cat to your other pets, make sure your existing pets are current with their vaccinations.

Introducing your cat to other pets should be done slowly.

Prepare a room where your new cat can reside for a while before being introduced to the other pets.

It may take a month or more for the new cat to be accepted.

Remember, cats are curious.

Fish, rabbits, rodents, birds, etc., should be protected from the inquisitive cat.

These animals are the natural prey of cats and they may become very stressed around your new pet, especially if she is sitting on top of their house. Make sure cages are secure and well maintained.



Cat - To - Cat Introductions

If your new cat is showing signs of illness, please do not introduce it to your existing cats until you consult with your veterinarian.

Generally, your existing cat will get along better with a new cat of the opposite sex. There may be exceptions; it depends on your cat's personality.

Make sure the new cat has a place to itself for a few days allowing them to adjust. Spend time with your new cat out of sight of your existing cat. Be sure to lavish attention on your existing cat.

Allow your original cat to follow its usual routine. They will be aware that something is different and seek out the door through which to have low grumbling conversations with the newcomer. Allow them to sniff under the door. After a day or so, take the new cat to a quiet room and allow your existing cat to investigate the newcomer. It is normal for cats to be hissing and growling at each other.



Cat - To - Cat Introductions, Continued

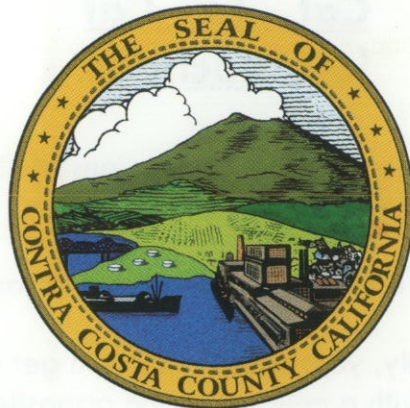
After a comfortable period of introductions through a baby gate, carrier or monitored encounter, increase the area and time the new kitty can explore outside his safe room. Only allow short periods of contact increasing as time goes on.

Once the new cat has been allowed access to the rest of the house, leave his safe room intact so he may take refuge there. Improvement in attitudes toward each other should begin in a week or so. Do not be discouraged if it takes longer. The length of adjustment will depend on the personality of the cats and how long your existing cat was a solitary pet.

Be sure to lavish attention on all your cats to make everyone feel part of the family

If all goes well, you will find them sleeping together and playing. The social interaction level will vary, you may have cats that just tolerate each other, and that's okay too.





**Contra Costa County
Animal Services**

**4800 Imhoff Place
Martinez, CA 94553**

Hours of Operation

Tuesday - Saturday

10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Open Late on Wednesdays

10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Phone: 925-335-8300

Fax: 925-335-8371

or

Visit us at

www.ccasd.org

**Cat - To - Cat
Introductions**



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